

Bixby's Sketch of Sam Watts.

From "People I Have Known" by A. L. Bixby in the State Journal.

The subject of this brief sketch seems to have no place in the official annals of Nebraska, which is confirmation strong of the truth of the statement in Gray's Elegy, to the effect that—

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene"

The deep, unfathomed caves of ocean bear;

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

From my standpoint Sam Watts was a pioneer of Lincoln county. I don't know where he came from or when he arrived, but as the old homesteader in the house that only leaked when it rained, said to the Arkansaw Traveler concerning a certain hill in the neighborhood, "It was there when I come." The same may be said of Sam Watts. He was a resident of North Platte the fall of 1879 to my certain knowledge, and I believe was successor to John La Munyon as county surveyor.

At that time the cattlemen owned the country, having a stretch of ranges extending from Kearney to the Rocky mountains. There the cattle grazed summer and winter, seeking the miserable shelter of draws and canyons when it stormed and perishing of exposure by hundreds when the season happened to be unfriendly.

These rangers had little respect for the rights of a citizen who had the nerve to take up a homestead within the territory over which the cowboy was long the acknowledged master, and I remember one Colburn who tried to reign supreme over a quarter section of land that has since become valuable, and came out of the melee with several painful gunshot wounds about his ample feet and ankles.

For reason already hinted at there was little for the surveyor of Lincoln county to do but sit in his office chair at the court house and look out of the window at the wagon bridge across the South Platte river, or swap wildcat and wild Indian stories with Jim Cannon, the trapper and scout who told stories that nobody could believe.

Watts got a job in the summer of 1880 surveying A. J. Miller's addition to the village of North Platte, to the south of the original town site, where investors were given the opportunity to secure perfectly good residence lots at the price of two tons of soft coal. Few believed the village would ever get that far away from itself, yet purchasers were not lacking when the sale was held, and today North Platte extends far beyond the southern limits of the Miller addition.

Sam Watts was small of stature and quiet in his ways. If he ever said anything mean about people I never heard it. He wore whiskers, and was by no means handsome, but when he spoke he had an appealing smile that won friends and retained them.

The only really prominent thing about the man was his democracy. I doubt if he knew why he was a democrat, but he knew he was one, and he was willing the world should share in

that knowledge. No caucus, convention or other meeting of his party failed to see him present among the first.

In the year 1880 Lincoln county had a strong republican organization, and naturally expected to carry everything for the party. It nominated A. H. Church, who was editor of the North Platte Nebraskan, for the lower house of the legislature. Mr. Church was a man of considerable ability who believed that to go to the legislature and make laws for the people would merely open the way for larger political honors. He felt that certain things were due him. He was one of the many "youngest volunteer" soldiers of the late rebellion. He did time in Andersonville, and held the south and the democratic party jointly responsible for all he had suffered.

The democrats in county convention assembled, looked anxiously for a man with which to beat A. H. Church. Beach Hinman was strong timber, but was in bad with a good many people for his success as a criminal lawyer in cheating Jack Ketch of several promising outlaws. William Neville was a crackjack on the stump, but hadn't been a resident of the county long enough to entitle him to such recognition. Finally after much discussion somebody suggested Sam Watts, and not a voice was raised in protest when a motion was made that the nomination be by acclamation. In response to cries of "speech, speech," Watts responded that he was no great shakes on the stump, but would get out and see the boys and try to be elected.

News of the nomination of Watts tickled Church. He didn't attempt to restrain his joyful emotions, but said funny things in his paper about the insignificance of his bearded opponent. The other republican paper, edited by Jim Ray, was naturally a bit unfriendly toward the editor of the Nebraskan, merely remarked that Watts was a "singed cat," and that Church should wait until after the election before crowing too vociferously.

During the campaign Mr. Church took the stump in his own behalf, in the few localities where there was a stump, and through it all treated his opponent and the party he stood for with the measure of contempt either deserved. Watts was seen a little everywhere, and not much anywhere. He urged nobody to vote for him; said nothing mean about his opponent, said he thought he could make good in the legislature, and merely hinted he would appreciate a complimentary boost from any of his friends who felt inclined to show him that favor. Some people wondered that Watts won in the election, but he did, and so far as I know his one term in the legislature satisfied all the ambition he ever had for political distinction.

It hurt his pride to see Watts win—Church wept with sorrow and chagrin. And while he lived in old North Platte, sought no high honors after that. Watts also disappeared from view. As all of us in time must do. No more to shine in politics. And, maybe, not remembered. BIX.

William Garman Passes Away.

William Garman, of Hastings, formerly of this city, died at the home of his son George Garman, southeast of town Friday night after an illness of several months. Mr. Garman became afflicted with Bright's disease May 1st and after taking treatment in Hastings for a month came to this city. While here he was given the best of medical attention and received the care of devoted relatives, but all efforts to stay the course of the disease was futile and the end came at twelve o'clock Friday night.

William Garman was born at Cambridge, Eng., October 27th, 1845, and came to the United States when seven years of age. He was married on March 14th, 1867, to Miss Susan Campbell, of Parkville, Mich., who died July 30th, 1908. To this union were born seven children, one of whom, Clyde, died seven years ago. Those surviving are George, Ralph, Clarence and Mrs. E. N. Ogier of this city, Mrs. Grace Sutherland of Elyria, Ohio, and Frank Garman of Omaha. His second wife, Mrs. Lottie Garman, to whom he was married in 1909 at Hastings, also survives him.

Mr. Garman came to Lincoln county from Michigan twenty-six years ago and located in Well precinct. He later moved to Hooker precinct and thence to Sutherland where he engaged in the mercantile business, but was burned out. He then went to Hastings, where he had resided for three years.

He was a veteran of the civil war and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Hoaglands and Odd Fellowship.

It is not often that one family receives the distinction from a fraternal organization that has been bestowed upon the name of Hoagland in this city by the I. O. O. F. and its several branches. At the meeting of the grand lodge in Omaha last week W. V. Hoagland, of North Platte, was elected deputy grand master of the order. Mrs. W. V. Hoagland was elected vice-president of the Rebekahs, and J. S. Hoagland was re-elected president of the board of trustees of the Odd Fellows' home at York. By right of succession W. V. Hoagland will become next year grand master of the Nebraska Odd Fellows, a body of thirty thousand men, and Mrs. Hoagland by official advancement will become president of the Rebekahs, who have a membership of eighteen or twenty thousand.

Mrs. Charles Perkins went to Grand Island Saturday afternoon for a short visit.

Frank Garman of Omaha was called here Saturday by the death of his father.

Mrs. M. N. Johnston and son have gone to Omaha to remain this week with friends.

J. E. Sebastian returned the latter part of last week from a visit in the east part of the state.

A business meeting of the Eldeon Club will be held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Ariz this evening.

BE OPTIMISTIC

Here's Good News for North Platte Residents.

Have you a pain in the small of the back?

Headaches, dizziness, nervous spells?

Are you languid, irritable and weak?

Annoyed by urinary disorders?

Don't despair—profit by North Platte experiences.

North Platte people know Doan's Kidney Pills—have used them—recommend them.

Here's a North Platte resident's statement:

W. F. Blalock, North Platte, says:

"I had an awful, heavy ache across my loins which seemed to take every bit of strength from me. My back was weak and I was so lame I could hardly stand erect. The kidney secretions seemed to get more disordered as the pain in my back increased and they were unnatural and too frequent in passage. I was advised to try Doan's Kidney Pills and got a box. They cured me of the complaint and I have been well since."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Blalock had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Order of Hearing on Petition for Settlement of Account.

State of Nebraska, Lincoln County, ss. In the County Court.

In the Matter of the Estate of John R. McWilliams, Deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Elizabeth McWilliams praying a final settlement and allowance of her final account, filed on the 21st day of October, 1915, and for a decree of descent and distribution.

Ordered, That Nov. 19 A. D. 1915, at 9 o'clock A. M., is assigned for hearing said petition, when all persons interested in said matter may appear at a County Court to be held in and for said County, and show cause why the prayer of petitioner should not be granted; and that notice of the pendency of said petition, and the hearing thereof, be given to all persons interested in said matter by publishing a copy of this order in the North Platte Tribune, a local semi-weekly newspaper printed in said County, for three successive weeks, prior to said day of hearing.

Dated October 27, 1915.

Geo. E. French, County Judge.

Carl Weber's Surprise

By EDITH V. ROSS

When the great European war broke out Carl Weber, whose father was a baker in Berlin, being a member of the reserve, was given ten days to prepare to leave for the front. The reason of his having been given so long a time when there was such a hurry for troops was that the unmarried members of his corps were recommended to take wives before going to the war in order that the depletion of men consequent upon the dangers of the service might be balanced by a crop of children.

Carl chose for a partner for life—or more likely for death—Gretchen, the daughter of Hans Kopp, who kept a grocery store next door to the bakery. Hans was twenty years old; Gretchen was seventeen. There was no time for courting—indeed, no time for either groom or bride to deliberate on the subject. Carl's father made the proposition to Gretchen's father that the youngsters be married, and since both men considered that the marriage was a duty to the fatherland a marriage it must be.

Neither Carl nor Gretchen was averse to a marriage. Being young they did not consider the fact that the young husband would probably be killed or die of disease. A great many soldiers who go to war return. Why not Carl? So they were married and passed a week's honeymoon together, which slid away very quickly, and Carl was obliged to tear himself from his bride to be entrained for Belgium. The last he saw of his wife she was standing on the sidewalk weeping.

Then for the first time Carl realized what it all meant. It was terribly serious. The first mowing down of men by modern machinery had taken place, and the death toll was terrible. On the way to the front he met trainloads of wounded, and the sight sickened him. What a change in every way had come over him! A fortnight before he had not thought of either war or marriage. Now he was deep in both. How he wished he could return, take his weeping wife in his arms and remain with her forever! But, no; very likely he would never see her again, while she—what would become of her? Would she weep for him throughout eternity? We are prone to picture those loved ones from whom we are separated as we last saw them. Carl throughout his army service never thought of Gretchen, but that she was standing on the sidewalk looking after him through her tears.

Carl escaped death, but after awhile was severely wounded. He was taken to the rear and placed in a hospital. There he lingered for a long while and at last began to mend. He was able to be about long before he was fit to return to the front, so he was permitted to go home for the rest of the period necessary for him to be prepared to go forth to be shot at again.

Carl wrote to his parents and his wife that he would be at home on a certain day. He did not like to surprise her, for he feared that the joy of meeting him suddenly might have a deleterious effect upon her. The day he arrived his father met him at the station, embraced him, kissing him on both cheeks, then led the way to his delivery wagon, which was waiting, for Carl was not equal to walking home.

Now, it so happened that the stork visited the house with a ten pound boy the very day of Carl's arrival. Indeed, the little fellow was just fifty-five minutes old when the train bearing his father rolled into the station. It had been arranged that Carl should be kept in ignorance of the fact till the last possible moment in order that he might have a pleasant surprise. Gretchen had continued to live with her parents, and his father was to take him home and await notice just when he might be introduced to his wife and child.

The idea of being a father had never entered the young soldier's head. For months he had remembered his wife in tears, and he was possessed with one idea—to get home and dry those tears. When his father drove up before the bakery over which he lived he suggested to Carl to go in and meet his mother before meeting his wife. Respect for parents is so strong in Germany that Carl consented, but after giving the old woman a hasty kiss he broke away and hobbled to the next house to see his wife.

Finding no one in the shop below, he pulled himself upstairs by means of a ballister and tried to open the door. It was locked. He tried the doors to the other chambers and found them all open, but no one was in any of the rooms. Carl began to be frightened. He had asked his father innumerable questions about Gretchen, and the old man had seemed noncommittal.

He rapped at the door of his wife's room again, then listened. He heard a hoarse sound as if a deaf mule was trying to speak. He knocked again and heard a man's voice say, "You may come in in about ten minutes."

Great heavens! A man in his wife's bedroom, telling him when he might come in. Surely something frightful had happened. Weak as he was, he paced the hall like a caged tiger; then suddenly the door was thrown open, and there, lying in bed, was Gretchen, on her arm taking his first breakfast— a baby boy, and instead of tears coursing down her cheeks, on her lips was the happiest smile that had ever been there.

The doctor and the grandmother retired and left the family alone to gether.

Clean out those wasteful carbon lamps that look like this

REPLACE them with this economical lamp

—with this name

Days are getting shorter now. More and more you must depend on electricity. Put in these economical lamps that give you three times as much light without increased cost.

EDISON MAZDA LAMPS

Made in U. S. A. and Backed by Mazda Service

Compare the light of EDISON MAZDA with your old carbon lamp's light. Try this tonight in your own home—light first one and then the other. Note the big difference in QUALITY as well as in QUANTITY of light. Put them in every socket. They are made in sizes for every lighting need.

Ed. 113

North Platte Light & Power Co.

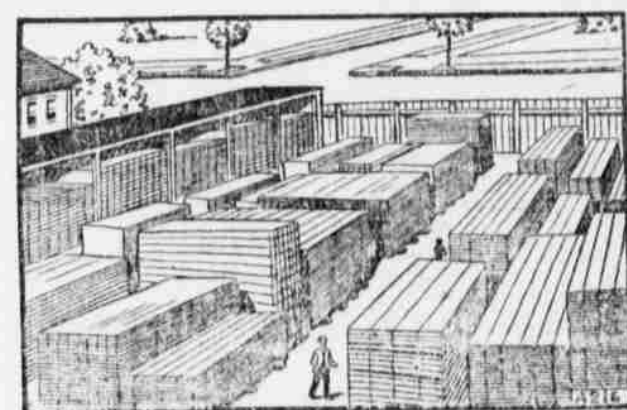
C. R. MOREY, Mgr.



It Is An Important Question

this business of Fire Insurance, and is of most importance to the family man who owns his own property. Fire is such a treacherous visitor that one never knows when it is liable to pay us a visit. Better be prepared for it at all times and the best way to do this is to let me write you a policy in a good reliable Company. The cost is small.

C.F. TEMPLE,
REAL ESTATE, LOANS AND INSURANCE
ROOMS 1 AND 2, I.O.O.F. BUILDING,
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.



Hordes of Boards Our Yard Affords Of Quality the Best

Clear and Sound
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You're Invited to Invest

Coates Lumber and Coal Co.

The Home of Good Coal. Phone 7.

Money to Loan ON FARMS AND RANCHES

Lowest Rates and Best Terms.
Plenty of Money on hand to Close
Loans Promptly.

Buchanan & Patterson

The Sunday Meetings Close

"Billy" Sunday closed his seven weeks campaign in Omaha Sunday, and the good people of that town presented him with a free-will offering in excess of twenty thousand dollars. In addition to this \$20,788 was collected for the expense of operating the meetings. The total attendance during the seven weeks was 722,900, the adult trail hitters numbered 8,288 and there were 3,954 girl and boy trail hitters. Sunday unquestionably did good work in Omaha, but if the local ministers of the city were given the same support financially, physically and morally, that was extended Sunday the result might be nearly as great and certainly more lasting.

Make Mud Holes for Living.

That mud holes in the roads are carefully nurtured in many communities in Missouri by persons who find it profitable to pull automobiles out of them when they get stuck is charged by Highway Commissioner Buffum in a road bulletin.

The issuance of this bulletin followed the action of a Callaway county farmer who refused to pull the automobile of Mrs. James Houchin out of a creek bed until she gave him \$25.

The entertainment by the "Old Glory Quartet" October 28th, is a modern American program and will make you glad you are an American. The quartet has some original patriotic songs which you cannot afford not to hear, such as "Broadway Cheers the Flag," "An American Girl Makes a Home, Sweet Home," "He's the Hero of Many a Parade" and "Lord Grant Us Peace Through the World."

Cabbage at 75 cents per hundred pounds. Lierk-Sandall Grocery.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Perry Sitton arrived here Saturday evening from Green River, and will remain for a few days.

Misses Marie and Florence Stack spent Sunday as the guests of the McFadden family in Sidney.

Mrs. J. T. Murphy and mother left the latter part of last week for Omaha to visit friends this week.

Rev. Fr. T. D. Sullivan, of Elm Creek, spent the week end in town as the guest of Rev. Fr. McDaid.

C. S. Jessup, of Richmond, Ky., who was the guest of his son, Joseph Jessup, left the latter part of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ariz and children, formerly of this city, came from Denver Sunday evening to visit relatives for two weeks.

George Vasepka has purchased the Ray Robinson residence on west Fifth street for a consideration of thirty-four hundred dollars.

The remains of the late Mrs. George Adanson, who died in Cheyenne last week, were brought here Friday evening and taken to Ringgold Saturday for burial.

E. A. Roberts, who were made homeless when the house on their farm southeast of town burned ten days ago, have taken possession of Mr. Roberts' house in the 700 block on east Sixth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Swope returned yesterday from Omaha where the former attended the sessions of the I. O. O. F. grand lodge. Enroute home they attended the foot ball game at Lincoln Saturday and saw Nebraska defeat the Notre Dame team by the narrow margin of twenty to nineteen.